

Our Ref: 029/2020
January 2020

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

We are conducting a survey of NHS Foundation Trusts to determine the extent to which Trusts are using the consent form or similar in Health Notice HN(83)6 (attached) for the fitting of cardiac pacemakers. In particular, we are interested in whether patients are being routinely asked to consent to the ownership of the pacemaker being vested in the Trust after their death.

The purpose of our seeking this information is to update our guidance to funeral directors as to whether pacemakers should be returned to NHS Foundation Trusts when removed from deceased persons.

Please could you confirm whether your Trust is asking patients to consent to the ownership of pacemakers being vested in the Trust after their death. If so, please could you confirm:

- a) when has such consent been routinely obtained;
- b) How many patients were fitted with cardiac pacemakers in 2018 and 2019; and
- c) The number of times you sought this consent in 2018 and 2019.

The pacemakers are returned to the manufacture on removal. They are only removed if the patient is to be cremated otherwise they are kept in. The mortuary remove them and the family pay for this to be done.